

8 September 1997

Re: NEPA Technical Inquiry 0032 - Floodplain Determination

Dear NEPA Call-In User:

This letter is in response to your February 13, 1997 request for information on floodplain determination. You indicated GSA is interested in acquiring a building in the Central Business District of Schenectady, NY. Specifically, you wanted to determine if the properties being considered are within the floodplain and provided the locations of the potential sites:

1. 650 Franklin Street;
2. 415 Center Street; and
3. 155 Erie Boulevard.

Additionally, you wanted to obtain copies of the relevant Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

In order to determine if the potential sites are within the floodplain, NEPA Call-In contacted the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Headquarters, Washington, D.C., (202) 761-0001. A representative stated this office did not have copies of Flood Insurance Rate Maps but suggested we call the New York regional office of USACE, (212) 264-4663. NEPA Call-In contacted Mr. John Petrovich, Floodplain Management Coordinator, (212) 264-8870, who stated they do not have copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps for distribution, but will allow individuals to view these maps within their office. Mr. Petrovich's office is located in your office building. During our follow-up conversation, we provided you with his phone number and suggested you contact him to set up a time for such a viewing.

NEPA Call-In then contacted FEMA's Map Service Center (MSC), (800) 358-9616, for floodplain information and maps concerning the three specified sites. Their representative stated, generally, the first step is to order an index map of a particular city or town which provides a breakdown of the city into smaller units called panels. From the index map, it is possible to determine which panel maps will be needed to obtain the desired information. Once the panel maps are obtained, the flood zone designations can be determined by reading the map. NEPA Call-In ordered the index map and the two panel maps for the area of concern. These are the currently effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps and they are dated September 30, 1983. At this time we are enclosing the two relevant panel maps. The index map of the area was not in stock and will not be available for 2 to 5 months. NEPA Call-In will provide you this map when it becomes available.

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and contractors and are made available at this site only to permit the general public to learn more about NEPA. The information is not intended to constitute legal advice or substitute for obtaining legal advice from an attorney licensed in your state and may or may not reflect the most current legal developments. Readers should also be aware that this response is based upon laws, regulations, and policies in place at the time it was prepared and that this response will not be updated to reflect changes to those laws, regulations and policies.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed)

NEPA Call-In Researcher